

See what's poppin' at First UCC!!"



First day of Sunday School

First Fruits

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Love Christ First



October 2025

Mission Project for the Month of October



CWS
Church World Service

What is CWS? We have one goal: building a world where there is enough for all.

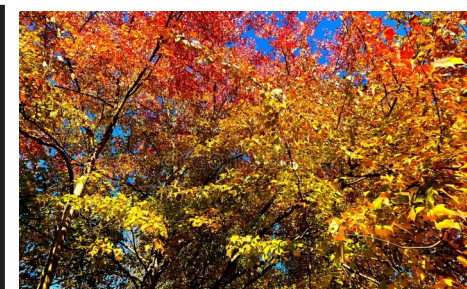
Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call; home. We've been working to make this a reality for more than 75 years, and we know it's possible. We've welcomed thousands of refugees and other new neighbors into our communities, helped countless families put food on the table and lifted the voice of people who have been left out.

Moms are now skilled chefs, preparing healthy meals for their little ones. Families in arid regions have access to water, even during long dry spells. More children are attending school each day, ready to learn and dreaming big. Refugee families are settling into new homes and jobs, far from the conflict that forced them to flee.

You are part off this vision, Together, we're going to keep pushing and keep fighting until people everywhere have the tools, education and opportunity they need.



First United Church of Christ
Pastor Becky Thomas
501 Northampton Street
Hellertown PA 18055
(610)838-8811
office@firstucchellertown.org





While the leaves hadn't really begun to change yet during my trip to Colorado, I did notice a few had turned and started to fall to the ground. My mother has pulled some pumpkins from her garden. The sun is definitely setting earlier. Halloween and Thanksgiving decorations are filling the shelves. This year, I'm trying to look at things a little differently. Instead of allowing the arrival of autumn to fill me with the dread and sadness of winter, I'm trying to pause in the beauty of the season. The truth is every year seems like it is going faster and if I keep wasting time dreading winter I'll miss out on the lessons of the season that I am in.

Autumn is a season that can remind us to pause and to let go. Like the trees, we sometimes need to rid ourselves of the things in our lives that are no longer serving a purpose, the things that sometimes weigh us down or distract us from God. Unlike the trees, who simply follow the changing of seasons, letting go of things can require trust from us. It certainly isn't easy and it forces us to open ourselves to the possibility of change. Our faith reminds us that God is at work in us, around us, and through us. As you begin to examine what you need to let go of in order to grow closer to God, I invite you to breathe and notice the reminders of God's presence all around you.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

"See what's poppin' at 1st UCC



Classes for pre-k through grade 1, and Grades 2-6
Each Sunday, children begin in worship at
10:30am and are invited to class following the
Children's Message.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 – 5:30-7pm Trunk or Treat – together at Lower Saucon UCC. Sign up in the narthex to host a trunk. Anyone may trick or treat!

The Nursery is open for young children during Sunday worship as needed. An adult is required to remain in the nursery when anyone under age 16 is present. Adults may still listen to the service while in the nursery. There is a child-sized bathroom and a changing table available as well

Refreshed worship bags are available in the coat room area for children during worship. Please remember to return the bags to the shelf following the service.

Contact Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 - if you have any questions at all about all ages Faith Formation at 1st UCC.



Our Confirmation program for 7th and 8th grade youth will meet:

Sundays, October 26th,
November 9th & 23rd
at 11:30 am

Please contact Pastor Becky or Marji if you have any questions ahead of time.



Backpack Blessing 8-24-25



Women's Choir on August 31st.

Woody's friends recently joined him at Braveheart to celebrate his birthday. Looks like the food was yummy!



Ashlynn and Amy Mixa singing a duet on August 24th

*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
A gift given in loving memory of Mark Lorah
Bob & Louise Krill*



September 11, 2025

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you to your congregation for your charitable contribution of \$280.00 on 9/11/25 in support of Valley Youth House Programs. Your generosity makes a significant difference in our ability to provide programming to young people in desperate need of our services.

Valley Youth House supports young people who are experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, and loss of family connections to achieve healthy and independent futures. Personalized programs and services offer emergency shelter, stable housing, counseling, and life skills training.

For the last 50 years VYH has provided crisis intervention and outcome-driven programs to more than 446,000 youth and families in our community. This is only possible with the assistance of philanthropic support, and therefore we are most appreciative of your donation.

Thank you for supporting our mission to be the catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places, and build community connections.

Sincerely,

Christina J. Schoemaker, MBA, CFRE. Sr. V-P of Advancement



Change of Address:

Jane Joyce
25540 Ann's Choice Way
Warminster PA 18974

Michael & Edna Santo
18910 Geraci Road
Lutz FL 33548

Dawn Hacker
1111 Peach Tree Lane
Stroudsburg PA 18360

Join us Online!

To watch on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc> and you will see the live stream as the top post.

To watch on YouTube, go to <https://www.youtube.com/@firstucchellertown/streams>.

To view a playlist of our choir anthems, go to <https://tinyurl.com/FirstUCCMusicMonday>.



*Every Sunday morning
9:45 AM
before worship
in the Wimmer Room*



Sunday morning Adult Bible Study --

In the Youth room upstairs

Sundays 9:15am

Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information, or just join us!



BIBLES AND BRUNCH

Is changing back to Mondays

1st and 3rd Mondays of the month

October 6 & 20 - 10:30am

We are reading "The God You Need to Know" by Margaret Feinberg
future meetings: November 3 and November 17



YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, October 19

Pizza and games

11:45am – 1pm

5th grade through high school

Join us for fun and fellowship

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions - email or call:

Pastor Becky - pastorbecky1121@gmail.com 610-297-2295

Ashlynn Mixa - ashlynnmixa@gmail.com 610-730-3334

Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053





NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM
First Wednesday of every month
10:00 AM – 1:00PM

Our monthly crew visits the soup kitchen at New Bethany Hospitality Center .
First UCC is signed up for the **first Wednesday of every month**. **Four members are needed to chop, prepare, and serve meals at noon finishing at 1:00 pm.**
Interested in starting a second crew or being put on a sub list??
Contact : Jeannie Miller 610.838.9704 Elsie Stout 610.838.6470



**Women's Breakfast at the
Hellertown Diner**
Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM
October 14, 2025
Come as you are!
Come whenever you are able!
First one there, grabs a table!



Tuesday Morning Men's Group
Every Tuesday at 8:00 AM
At the Hellertown Diner
**After breakfast they come to the church to do
various jobs or projects**
All men are welcome to join this group



BAKERS NEEDED

**We can use your help in baking items for the
bake sale being held the same day as the
Penny Party. Please present individually
wrapped baked goods for sale in small portions
to be sold for \$1.00. Please sign up on the**

**Bulletin Board in the Narthex, indicating what
you will be making. Thank you.**



Blessing Box Schedule



Our Blessing Box Food Pantry is being used heavily. We are blessed to be able to help. Obviously, there are many in our community who are aided by your generosity. We need to replenish our emergency supply.

Week of Oct 5—11—Letty Petruno

Week of Oct 12– 18— Carlann Broglie

Week of Oct 19-25—Doug Miller

Week of Oct 26 –Nov 1—Marji Hughes

Week of Nov 2-8 — Andy Spear

Week of Nov 9-15—Lisa Fenon

Week of Nov 16-22—Ann Brown

Week of Nov 23-29—Sandy Panick

Week of Nov 30 – Dec 6—Amy Mixa

Week of Dec 7-13 – Phyllis Scherer

Week of Dec 14-20—Tammie Vosburg

Week of Dec 21-27—Georgie Stuempfle

The Center for Animal Health & Welfare

Finding Forever Homes for Homeless Animals

September 2, 2025

Dear VBS Staff,

Thank you for your generous donations which we received on August 28, 2025. Your gifts will directly benefit the hundreds of animals who come to **The Center** each year on their journey to their forever homes.

As an independent community-supported non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of groups like yours to keep our doors open and continue to make a difference for homeless animals in our community. We truly could not do what we do without you.

Thank you for choosing to support our organization— and making a pawsitive impact!

With gratitude,

Dawn Brosious
Director of Development



August 18, 2025

Dear First UCC,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$435.00 on 7/31/25 to New Bethany as we celebrate 40 years of serving our neighbors! Your gift allows us to offer wraparound services designed to remove barriers and assist individuals and families in reaching self-sufficiency,

We start with a meal and meet people where they are with street-level human services, including showers, laundry services, mailing address, and monthly access to our food pantry, and continue with housing assistance, job search support and tools, and case management.

You are a crucial partner in this work. Thank you again on behalf of New Bethany's board, staff, and most importantly, our neighbors who need assistance!

Sincerely,

Crystal Williams, Development Director

October Sponsors/Volunteers

October 5

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 3
Acolyte	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers.....	Karen Frankenfield
Bulletins	Bob & Louise Krill
Lay Reader	Sandy Panick

October 19

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers	Team 5
Acolyte.....	Sarah Beers
Altar Flowers	Sandy Panick
Bulletins.....	Sandy Panick
Lay Reader.....	Dave Stuempfle

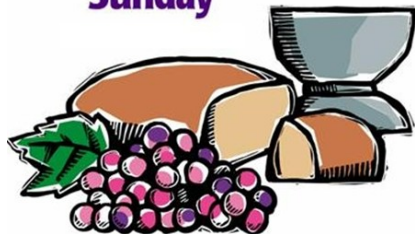
October 12

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 4
Acolyte.....	Madyson Schrammel
Altar Flowers...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Bulletins.....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader.....	Ashlynn Mixa

October 26

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 1
Acolyte.....	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers.....	Janice Csrnko
Bulletins	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader	Sara Beers

**World
Communion
Sunday**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

10:30am

The October Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Dave & Georgie Stuempfle

Offerings may be made anytime electronically at www.firstucchellertown.org/give This allows you to make a one time or repeating gift from your bank account or credit/debit card. You may also elect to give directly from your bank through a Bill-Pay option or mail your gifts and envelopes to the church office. The Church office is open Monday through Friday 9am to 1 pm if you care to drop off your gifts.

Upcoming Schedule of Services



You will be notified by Facebook or One Call of any changes to the schedule listed below. If you are not receiving messages by One Call, please contact the Church Office with your contact information. If you have recently changed your email address, or phone number, please update your information in the church office. Thank you.

Oct 2025	10:30 AM	5	Worship/World Communion/ Sunday School
	10:30 AM	12	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	19	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	26	Worship/Sunday School
Nov 2025	10:30 AM	2	Worship/ Remembrance Sunday/Communion/ Sunday School
	10:30 AM	9	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	16	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	23	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	30	Worship/Communion/ 1st Sunday of Advent/Sunday School
Dec 2025	10:30 AM	7	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	21	Worship/Sunday School
	7:30 PM	24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	28	Worship/Sunday School

PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION NEEDED

Discussions of church business should be reserved for after services on Sundays or during office business hours. Please allow our members and staff to prepare their hearts for worship.

THANK YOU

Church Office Hours: — The Office will be open **9:00 am to 1:30 pm**, Monday thru Friday. Please make your calls to 610-838-8811 and conduct your business during those hours. Other calls will be recorded on voicemail. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and cooperation.



TRUNK or TREAT

Sunday, October 26, 2025

together at Lower Saucon UCC

5:30-7pm

Sign up in the narthex if you wish to have a trunk!




Attention All Dart Players—October Schedule

10/6 Away @ Trinity Edgeboro 10/13 Home vs College Hill

10/20 Away @ Holy Cross 10/27 Home vs Star of Bethlehem

For anyone who is interested in joining the group,
Please contact Lisa Fenon 610-295-8688



<u>Staff</u>		
Rev. Becky Thomas, Pastor		610-297-2295
Marji Hughes, Minister of Faith Formation		610-984-5053
Pat O 'Connell, Minister of Music		484-357-9764
Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst.		610-554-6223
Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer		610-533-8009
Budd Frankenfield, Sexton		610-360-7859

<u>Consistory Members</u>		
	Email address	Phone Number
<u>Elders</u>		
Sandy Bender	purplepeep@rcn.com	610-248-4978
Joan Kiak	njbk77@gmail.com	610-704-6904
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	610-428-0583
<u>Deacons</u>		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	484-554-6621
Diane French	dcfrench48@gmail.com	610-360-8897
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	610-730-3334
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	610-838-1695
<u>Trustees</u>		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	610-838-1171
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	pamajors@rcn.com	610-392-0503
Wayne Packer	wayne.t.packer@gmail.com	610-731-4559
Chip Wagner	rdmax723@hotmail.com	717-708-6660

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



October Birthdays

10/1 Leroy Miller	10/19 Colin Weiss
10/1 Georgie Stuempfle	10/20 Bill Roth
10/3 Benjamin Henry	10/20 Ruth Thatcher
10/4 Megan Scherer	10/23 Judy Slocum
10/5 Douglas Hughes	10/25 Doug Miller
10/6 Tammie Vosburg	10/30 Doris Turner
10/7 Emily Mann	
10/8 Melissa Spear	
10/8 Jessica Yonney	
10/9 Henry Fenon	
10/10 Sharon Jezick	
10/14 Sally Kase	
10/14 Luke Rosenberger	
10/16 Linda Thatcher	
10/18 Carter Mullen	
10/18 Sophia Riehl	
10/18 Becky Rosenberger	



October Anniversaries

10/2 Torey & Sarah Petruno
10/4 Jake & Alison Weaver
10/7 Bill & Jane Hoff
10/13 Doug & Marji Hughes
10/16 Wayne Packer & Andrea Danner
10/20 Timothy & Jess Riehl
10/22 Bernie & Sherri Musgnung
10/24 Bob & Emily Stetser
10/26 Michael Pilato & Sara Heintzelman
10/31 James & Sandy Panick



The following members are celebrating 90+ birthday this month. Perhaps you would like to send a birthday card or thinking of you card to brighten their day.

Leroy Miller (92)
829 Easton Road
Hellertown PA 18055

Ruth Thatcher (102)
c/o Garry L. Thatcher
226 Schlessor Rd
Factoryville PA 18419

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance		
Aug 3-Communion	\$2,042.00	46		
Aug 10	\$2,223.53	37		
Aug 17	\$1,713.07	45		
Aug 24	\$3,325.03	56		
Aug 31	\$1,251.00	50		
Total	\$10,554.63			
Budget	(\$20,000.00)			
Over/Short	—\$9,445.37			

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

PENNY PARTY

Sunday, November 9, 2025 - Doors open at 12:30 pm, Game begins at 1:00

There will also be a 50/50 drawing. We are accepting donations of items. We are looking for **new** items of any kind, food (watch the expiration date), personal care items, beauty items, toys, art supplies, kitchen items, garage items, paper goods, almost anything that is **new**—any value item will work. We are, of course, looking for lots of helpers the day of the event to help with the kitchen, clean-up, selling tickets, runners to hand out items won and more. We will also be selling baked goods, along with other food items and are asking our bakers to sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex Bulletin Board. If baking isn't your "thing", you can donate food /beverages for the day of the party. (Soda, water, snacks) See the Narthex bulletin board to sign-ups to bring these items. We are also accepting donations to help buy supplies for the event. So, **start collecting your change**, think about friends and neighbors you can invite, look around your house or shop for items to donate.



A **Fall Scavenger Hunt** is a great way to have simple conversations about our great, big God and how God can be seen in every moment of our lives. Check out my list of items and verses. Use these or create your own items/verses. Even though this was created for kids, the reminders of these beautiful verses may just be a blessing to adults as well. *Elizabeth Nejedlo*

Fall Scavenger Hunt with Bible Verses:

- ~ Something you think is a treasure *Matthew 6:21*
- ~ A Flower *Isaiah:40:8*
- ~ Something Heart-shaped *Proverbs 3:5*
- ~ 2 Kinds of seeds *Matthew 17:20*
- ~ Dirt *Genesis 2:7*
- ~ Something Beautiful *Psalms 139:14*
- ~ A Rock *2 Samuel 22:3*
- ~ A Feather *Psalms 91:4*
- ~ A stick *Proverbs 18:24*
- ~ Something Straight *Proverbs 3:6*
- ~ An Bird *Matthew 10:29-31*
- ~ Something Broken *Psalms 34:18*
- ~ A Pine Cone or Something Rough (for rough times) *Philippians 4:13*
- ~ A Weed *Matthew 13:30*
- ~ 2 Different Types of Leaves *Proverbs 11:28*



First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Meeting Minutes (in brief)
Monday September 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room

In Attendance: Keith Lentz, Diane French, Sandy Bender, Wayne Packer, Amy Mixa, Ashlynn Mixa, Sandy Panick, Karen Frankenfield

Missing: Doug Major, Chip Wagner, Joan Kiak

Keith Lentz called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Pastor Becky offered the opening prayer:

Motion was made by Sandy Panick, seconded by Karen Frankenfield to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025 meeting.

Treasurer's Report by Tammie Vosburg. Our cash flow deficit is \$6852 which is actually encouraging following the summer. For most budget categories our actually spending is below the approved budget numbers. Fundraising is a little below the past few years, but our expenses are holding steady. Currently \$8020 in checking, however which won't make payroll, so some funds may need to be moved over from savings. Motion by Diane French, 2nd by Amy Mixa to transfer \$1900 to Capital Fund which will remain tagged as remembrance money for Carol Petruno. There are still Wimmer Funds left that may be used before December 31, 2025. A preliminary budget for 2026 will be available at the November Consistory meeting.

Pastor Becky reported that she and the consistory president met with a member who had sent an email with worship, membership and moderation, concerns. She will be meeting with the elders to begin a discussion, including but not limited to the following issues: 1/messages perceived as political statements from the pulpit by supply pastors, 2/ missions 1st UCC supports, and 3/divides that need to be bridged.

Marji Hughes reported for **Faith Formation** that our Fall program year theme is "See what's poppin' at 1st UCC" Sunday, Sept 14, Sunday School returns and there will be popcorn decorations, popcorn balls with the church logo, and fresh popped popcorn for Fellowship Hour. Sunday Morning Bible Study, Bibles and Brunch, Treasure Chest Children's Messages, and a new Confirmation class, all start up this month. The Women's one day Mini Retreat is coming up on September 27 which will be held at Lower Saucon this year. Youth Group begins and Trunk or Treat will be held in October. The committee is looking to hold an Advent luncheon or workshop or other event to celebrate the season.

Amy Mixa for the **Elders** reported that they will be meeting Thursday, September 11, in part to discuss member concerns over our worship service.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick – nothing new to report.

Keith Lentz reported that the **Trustees** are adding a line item to the 2026 budget for \$1,290.00 for yearly maintenance for our AC system with E.F. Laudenslager. The contract bill would be due in July 2026.

Correspondence included a Thank-you from the Center for Animal Health and Welfare for our donations in August. Adding them to our monthly mission list will be discussed at a future missions meeting.

Committee Reports:

Pastoral Relations Committee has 3 members: Rachel Panick, Phyllis Heil-Henry, Ann Brown and Pastor Becky has one more church member to ask if they are willing to be on the committee. Pastoral Relations is a two-year commitment.

Executive Meeting: Doug Major and Keith Lentz met September 4th to plan the agenda.

Music and Worship: the Choir began to sing on 9/7/25 which was also communion Sunday. October 5th is World Communion Sunday. November 2 is Remembrance Sunday, All Saints Day is also communion. November 24 is Thanksgiving Sunday with our "Fill the Sill" blessing. The first Sunday in Advent, November 30 will begin with the Hanging of the Greens and transition to our Advent Theme "What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent"

Safety and Security: Sandy Bender asks us to please come to her if we think of any other ways our church can add to its safety and security. Concerns over AA not fully closing or locking the front door when they leave as the choir is still practicing, also, that they have easy access to the offices due to the placement of extra keys. Ann Brown will be asked to speak with AA. Motion by Wayne Packer, 2nd by Amy Mixa to purchase and install keypads for the front office and the pastor's office, with limited access by staff etc. Mark Mixa will be asked to assist with this.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Ashlynn Mixa reports \$150 profit from Community Day because they only asked for donations for the popcorn. All supplies were donated and there is plenty left over for the 1st Day of Sunday School and other upcoming activities. T-shirts are still available – mainly youth sizes. Penny Party meeting Thursday at 6:30 pm for our Nov. 9 event. Asking for new donations only as this is NOT a yard sale. Our annual nutroll sale is about to begin, with orders due October 31, with pick up on November 20. \$18 each. If we sell \$100 we receive \$4 for each roll sold.

Altar: no report

Tech Committee: James Rosenberger is looking for a work around for Publisher after October 2026 when Microsoft no longer supports it. Phyllis will call our security company to move the security system to the new computer. James gifted a booster for the projector which gave VBS a very smooth week for the music and the videos.

Old Business: We will continue to explore the possibility of putting the slides that are shown on the Live Video feed before church starts, on the central screen prior to worship, including the option of installing 2 side screens instead. Many parishioners do not feel the "advertisements" are appropriate nor do they wish the altar to be blocked when preparing their "hearts and minds for worship". Please get new and important information to Ann Brown and Sara Heintzelman so they may update our website. Especially if it is NOT in the newsletter.

2 new Consistory Members are needed: 1 Deacon (2026), 1 Elder (immediately).

Discussion over lack of volunteers to be the secretary each month for the meeting. Wayne suggested we try AI to transcribe the meeting for us and then *someone* would correct them and add in the committee reports that have been emailed prior to the meeting. Consensus to try this out. Keith volunteered to shorten the report and make any corrections. Our custodian Budd has agreed to mow the church grounds for the remainder of the year for the same price that we paid Owen. He will be asked if he wishes to continue for 2026.

New Business: A committee will be formed to discuss the upcoming 250th celebration of America. An old-fashioned church picnic, and a 1776 church service are two options presented. Church members are asked to help think of other ways we can celebrate and to join the committee.

Adjournment was at 8:06 with a motion by Diane French. Sandy Panick 2nd.

Respectfully submitted, Marji Hughes, secretary of the month.

Next Meeting: *Date:* October 13, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.



HOLIDAY NUT ROLL SALE

\$18 each (Apricot, Lekvar, Poppysseed, Pumpkin Cheese, Seedless Raspberry and Walnut Rolls)

From Country Cottage Bake Shop, Tamaqua PA

Orders due: Friday, October 31st

Pick-up date is Thursday, November 20th (11am-2 pm or 5-7 pm)

**As in past nutroll sales, if we sell 100 or more,
the church earns \$4/nutroll sold.**

See order form included in this Newsletter.

Additional forms available in the office.

